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Government of India

National River Conservation Directorate

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodi Road

New Delhi-110003.

Dated: 25.02.2015

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY  
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

27 FEB 2015  
C/2015/1855

DY. No. ....

Office Memorandum

A meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, MoEF&CC on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 2015 at MoEF&CC as per the directions Hon'ble NGT in the matter of Manoj Mishra vs. Union of India & Others in Original Application No. 6 of 2012 and MA Nos. 967/2013 and 275/2014 regarding immediate action plan required to ensure proper environmental flows in Yamuna river.

Minutes of the Meeting of the meeting are enclosed for information and necessary action.

Encl: As Above

To

1. Shri Anuj Kumar Bishnoi, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. (Fax No. 23731553). (secy-mowr@nic.in)
2. Shri D.M.Sapolia, Chief Secretary, Delhi Administration, Delhi Secretariat, ITO, Delhi-110002 (Fax No. 23392102) (email: csdelhi@nic.in)
3. Shri Depinder Singh Dhesi, Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, Chandigarh (Fax No. 0172-2740317) (email: cs@hry.nic.in), (dhesids@hry.nic.in)
4. Shri P.Mitra, Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla (Fax No. 0177-2621813) (cs-hp@nic.in)
5. Shri N.Ravi Shanker, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun (Fax No. 0135-2712113) (cs-uttaranchal@nic.in)
6. Shri Alok Ranjan, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow (Fax No. 0522-2239383). (csup@nic.in)
7. Shri Balwinder Singh, Vice-Chairman Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, B-Block Vikas Sadan, INA New Delhi. (Fax No. 24623968) (vcdda@dda.org.in)
8. Shri Ashwin Pandya, Chairman, Central Water Commission, R.K.Puram, New Delhi. (Fax No. 2610 8855) (cmanoff@nic.in)

Copy for information to: -SS(SS), ADV(BS)



**Minutes of the Meeting on Environmental Flow in river Yamuna as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT in the matter of Manoj Mishra Vs. Union of India & Ors. in Original Application No. 6/2012 and M.A.Nos. 967/2013 & 275/2014**

1. In pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble NGT in the matter of Manoj Mishra vs. Union of India & Others in Original Application No. 6/2012 and M.A. Nos. 967/2013 & 275/2014, a meeting on environmental flow in river Yamuna was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at 11 a.m. in Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri Shashi Shekhar, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Officers of Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, DDA, DJB and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR) attended the meeting. The list of participants is annexed.

3. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the participants to the meeting and stressed the importance of maintaining the environmental flows in river Yamuna through out the year, especially during the lean periods. The average flow in the river during the lean season was estimated at a meagre 3000 cusecs, which increases to 8 lakh cusecs during the monsoon season. As the available water was being diverted for drinking purposes, irrigation and other conjunctive uses, there was no water in large stretches of the river & the river connectively was lost. He suggested construction of distributed storages on both sides of the river along its length to store the water for use/maintaining flow in the river during the non-monsoon period. This would also help in recharging the ground water along the length of the river. Examples of Thames River in England, which was successfully brought back to its pristine state by creating a series of reservoirs/tanks along the both sides of river, and Murray – Darling River in Australia were cited in this regard. The Chairman also desired that innovative measures need to be taken to conserve water and reduce dependence on river Yamuna, which would help in achieving the goal of having environmental flow in the river.

4. The Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Haryana brought out that in 1994 a MoU was signed on sharing of water of river Yamuna between Haryana, NCT of Delhi, U.P., H.P. and Rajasthan in which it was agreed to maintain a minimum 10 cumecs in the river. Presently, Haryana was releasing 4.54 cumecs at Hathnikund & 4 cumecs into the Najafgarh drain. He informed that it was not possible to release the full 10 cumecs due to increased requirement for drinking & other purposes as well as the fact that in summer months sometimes the flow available at Hathnikund was only 1500 cusecs. He also informed that based on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a High Powered Committee on minimum flow in Yamuna was constituted under chairmanship of Member (Environment), Planning Commission. The High Powered Committee had submitted its report to the Hon'ble Court in 2005. He also desired that work on construction of three dams at Renuka, Kishau & Lakhvar – Vyasi in the upper reaches of Yamuna river needs to be started expeditiously after obtaining the necessary approvals/clearances as they would help in maintaining environmental flows in the river during the lean period.

5. The Member Secretary, Upper Yamuna River Board as well as the Director, CWC informed that as per the surveys carried out by CWC in collaboration with the concerned State Governments, it was extremely difficult to get adequate land on both sides of the river for construction of storages. Also, as land along the river in Haryana and Delhi was sandy, it was not conducive for construction of storages. As per them, the only alternative was construction of the three proposed dams.



6. The CEO, Delhi Parks & Gardens Society suggested that wetlands should be created in the floodplain of the river in all the States, which would store the excess water for use during the non-monsoon season. This would not involve any land acquisition as the floodplains belonged to the Government.

7. Member, Delhi Jal Board pointed out that the issue of release of 10 cumecs in river Yamuna is not being interpreted in the right manner. He stated that there should be sufficient releases at the regulating points to ensure that minimum 10 cumecs flow is maintained through out the river stretches during the non-monsoon season, which was not the case. He also informed that the Government of Haryana instead of releasing Yamuna water into the river course through Moonak Escape had routed it through their canal system resulting in drying up of about 100 kms. stretch of the river downstream of Moonak. He desired that this should be done expeditiously as it would improve the health of the river.

8. After detailed deliberations, the following suggestions were made by the Chairman:

- Efforts need to be made for increasing the efficiency of irrigation systems in the States, including encouraging drip irrigation
- State Governments may consider making rain water harvesting mandatory in towns
- Recycling/ reuse of treated wastewater for purposes of agriculture/horticulture, industrial use, washing, toilet flushing, etc. should be encouraged.
- State Governments may consider construction of water reservoirs/distributed storages in close vicinity to the river, which can be filled up during the monsoon/rainy season. The representatives of MoWR, RD&GR as well as Government of Haryana were of the view that the three proposed dams at Renuka, Kishau & Lakhvar – Vyasi in the upper reaches of Yamuna river should be constructed to ensure e-flow.
- Wetlands should be created in the floodplains of the river in all the States, which would store the excess water for use during the non-monsoon season.
- The Report of High Powered Committee submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2005 should be examined and analysed. In addition, the reports on e-flow of river Yamuna prepared by the Consortium of IITs as a part of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan being prepared for MoWR, RD&GR should also be obtained and examined.

9. The Chairman suggested that the above mentioned reports and other issues on the subject can be deliberated in the next meeting which could be held after a month.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**

1. Shri Shashi Shekhar, Special Secretary, -Chairman
2. Shri Brijesh Sikka, Adviser (NRCD)
3. Shri Ravi Sinha, Director (NRCD)
4. Shri Sanjay Singh, Dy. Director (NRCD)

**Ministry of Water Resources, River Directorate & Ganga Rejuvenation**

5. Shri H.K.Sahu, Member Secretary, Upper Yamuna River Board
6. Shri N.N.Rai, Director (Hydrology), Central Water Commission
7. Shri G.Rambabu, Director, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
8. Shri S.Mukhopadhyay, Sr Env. Specialist, NMCG

**Delhi Development Authority**

9. Shri Amit Das, Additional Commissioner
10. Smt Savita Bhandari, Addl Commissioner (Landscape)
11. Shri Tapan Kumar Mandal, Director(Planning)

**State Governments & their Agencies**

12. Shri Anurag Rastogi, Principal Secretary(Environment), Haryana
13. Shri Rajeev Verma, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Haryana
14. Shri Sanjiv Kumar, Secretary (Environment), Government of NCT of Delhi
15. Dr. S.D.Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Parks & Gardens Society, Department of Environment, Delhi
16. Shri B.M.Dhaul, Member(Drainage), Delhi Jal Board
17. Shri V.K.Jain, Chief Engineer, Zone-I, Irrigation and Flood Control, Delhi
18. Shri K.Sambhamurti, Chief Engineer, Zone-II, Irrigation & Flood Control, Delhi
19. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control, Delhi
20. Shri B.L.Chawla, Sr. Environmental Engineer, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
21. Shri Vinod Kumar Singhal, Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Environment Protection & Pollution Control Board, Dehradun
22. Shri Rakesh Sood, CES, Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd., Shimla
23. Shri B.R.Sharma, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation & Public Health Department, Government of H.P., Nahan
24. Shri Vidhotma Bharti, Assistant Director, Department of Environment, Government of U.P., R.O., Meerut